

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Robert C. Faber on June 15, 2012.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 5, lines 2, 3, and 4, "inner" has been changed to --inner surface--; and lines 3 and 5, "outer" has been changed to --outer surface--.

Claim 6, lines 4 and 6, "abutment" has been changed to --innermost abutment--.

Claim 7, line 6, "abutment" has been changed to --innermost abutment--.

Claim 11, line 13, the word "directly" has been deleted.

Claim 16 has been canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 5-8, 10-12, 17 and 18 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

As to claim 11, lines 33-37, Watkins et al. (US 4,183,562) disclose the claimed flanged member with the exception of the load transferring surface of the first flanged member faces the load transferring surface of the second flanged member before assembly and is inclined in the radial direction outwards to form an angle in radial cross-section, the angle being such that a distance between the two end load transferring surfaces increases in the radial direction outwards, said inclined end load transferring surfaces being concave. Further, Watkins et al. (US 4,183,562) fails to disclose no two points on the concave curve define a line that is not inclined in the radial direction.

There is no teaching or suggestion, absent the applicants' own disclosure, for one having

ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the a cable barrier system as disclosed by Watkins et al. (US 4,183,562) to have the above mentioned elemental features.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The prior art of the record, US Patent No. 3,135,538 George is cited to show a joint having first and second flanged members.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nahid Amiri whose telephone number is (571) 272-8113. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:00-6:30. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Nahid Amiri
Examiner
Art Unit 3679
June 15, 2012

/Daniel P. Stodola/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3679